



**NATIVITY**  
FAITH & REASON

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**Preschool Program  
Policies and Procedures  
2018-2019**

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## **VISION STATEMENT**

In the fall of 2018, Nativity Preschool will offer a high-quality, early childhood experience in a caring, safe, fun, and faith-filled environment. Children will grow under a developmentally appropriate curriculum, fused with a love for God and learning. Our goal is to accompany children in their social, emotional, physical, and cognitive growth, preparing them for kindergarten life and beyond, in the larger K-8 Catholic community of Nativity School.

Circle time, creative play, song and movement, outdoor activities, art, and prayer will all be part of our new program. Our teachers will be certified and joyful, and understand the significant transition that is taking place as our youngest students begin their journeys of faith and learning.

Nativity Preschool believes the parents are the primary educators of the child, and thus we seek to accompany the parents in helping the child grow socially, emotionally, and spiritually. Our new preschool will provide opportunities for parents to be partners in the child's preschool experience, and we encourage parents to get involved in the many volunteer opportunities that will be available.

## **SCHOOL MISSION**

The mission of Nativity: Faith & Reason is to continue the ministry of Jesus within the tradition of our Catholic heritage, with the goal to educate the total child of the families we partner with: spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally.

## **ADMISSION PROCEDURE/AGE OF CHILDREN'S ACCEPTANCE**

Registration for each school year begins in early February and continues throughout the school year until all spots are filled. We encourage you to register early for the following school year as we will fill up early. To be eligible for preschool, your child must turn three or four by October 1st. We accept 3-5-year-old children in our program. You will need to re-register each year your child will be in attendance. To enroll your child, you will need to fill out all the school and preschool paperwork online, print, sign, and turn in to the school with a copy of the child's birth certificate, Baptismal certificate, and immunization record.

- Please Note: The Statement of Physical Condition form (in the enrollment packet) is only valid for one year from the date of examination.
- On the first day of attendance, all paperwork must be complete.
- Registration fee and tuition contract must be completed before June 1<sup>st</sup>. Tuition is either paid in full on or before June 1<sup>st</sup> or on a 12-month payment plan which will begin in June and end in May. Refer to your tuition contract. Parent/Guardian must complete a tuition contract with the school registrar. Your information is kept in a confidential file.

## **NON-IMMUNIZED CHILDREN**

Non-immunized children are not accepted into our programs, with the exception of a parent indicating on the Certificate of Immunization the reason for the exemption.

## **MEDICATION**

We prefer that you administer any medications your child needs before or after they come to school. If medications must be administered during school, you will need to bring the medication in its original bottle with the prescription label or manufacturer's label on it. The medication must be prescribed for the child and accompanied by the Nativity: Faith & Reason official medication form filled out by your doctor and a signed permission form from a parent/guardian. Copies of these forms are available from the Preschool Director. When children have been diagnosed with a communicable illness such as hepatitis, measles, mumps, meningitis, diphtheria, rubella, salmonella, tuberculosis, giardia, or shingles, we will immediately notify the local health department, staff members, and all parents/guardians of the children in our care. We will maintain children's confidentiality.

## **DISEASE AND INCUBATION**

Return to school:

Chicken pox (14-21 days) - not less than 6 days after the first sore appears or after the last sore is scabbed over.

Diarrhea/vomiting (2 hours-3 days) - when recovered from acute illness.

German Measles (14-21 days) - when rash is faded.

Head Lice (immediate) - When hair and scalp are free of nits and eggs.

Measles (10-21 days) - when rash has faded, and there has been no fever for 24 hours.

Mumps (10-21 days) - when swelling is gone.

Pink eye (2-3 days) - when redness of eye has disappeared, or on medication for a 24-hour period.

Ringworm (10-14 days) - when sores are healed.

## **HEALTH**

For the protection of your child and his/her classmates, it is advised that children be kept at home if the following symptoms are present:

- Skin rash or sores
- Diarrhea
- Stomachache or nausea or vomiting
- Ear ache
- Coughing
- Flushed face
- Fever of 100° or more
- Inflamed eyes
- Heavy nasal discharge
- Chills
- When taking an antibiotic for less than 24 hours

If a child becomes sick at school, the parent will be called. It is expected that the parent, or other designated adult, will pick up the child within the hour. A child with a fever may return to school when they have been free of the fever (without medication) for a 24-hour period and recovered from their symptoms.

## **HOURS OF OPERATION/CALENDAR OF CLOSED DATES**

School hours are Monday through Friday 8:15 am – 3:15 PM.

Extended care is available upon request. (See Director for more information and registration packet)

The following are days which parents will need to make alternative provisions for their child:

- Labor Day
- Fall/Thanksgiving Break
- Christmas Vacation (varies year to year)
- Martin Luther King Day
- President's Day
- Easter Vacation/Spring Break (varies year to year)
- Memorial Day
- Summer break
- Archdiocese of Denver specified student non-contact days, i.e. staff development, teacher planning, in-service days, etc.

In order to assist family planning, the Nativity: Faith & Reason calendar will be available at the beginning of school year, indicating all days of closure for the academic year.

## **EXCESSIVELY HOT/COLD WEATHER**

In the event of excessively hot or cold temperatures, the students' outdoor playtime will be adjusted accordingly. Children should be prepared to participate in outdoor activities on a daily basis. Drinking water is available to the children, and play times may be shorter and/or involve different kinds of structured play activities to accommodate the temperature.

## **ENROLLMENT AND SPACE AVAILIBLTY**

We attempt to honor all requests for enrollment; however, spots will be filled on first come basis using the Nativity: Faith & Reason School Admission Policy priority. Admission is thus granted with this priority:

- Siblings of current Nativity students
- Nativity parishioners who have been registered and active in the parish's stewardship program for at least six months
- Registered, active members of other Catholic parishes
- Unaffiliated Catholics
- Non-Catholics

## **SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN**

Children are under the direct supervision of the staff at all times. State regulated ratios are maintained and attendance is taken several times throughout the school day.

## TUITION AND PAYMENT POLICIES

Parent/Guardian promises to pay to Nativity Faith & Reason tuition in accordance with the Enrollment Policies and Guidelines provided with the tuition contract. In signing, parents acknowledge that they have reviewed and understand the tuition rates and enrollment policies of the contract, which are binding, with a non-refundable registration fee. All accounts are due on the stated payment dates according to the plan chosen. If automatic withdrawal is declined for insufficient funds, parents will be contacted by the business administrator. If the tuition is unpaid or outstanding for two (2) months, parents may be asked to withdraw their student(s). Once a student has been withdrawn, uncollected balances may be turned over for collection. Parents are responsible for payment of all costs incurred for collection or overdue obligations, including collection fees and attorney's fees.

### Non-Refundable Registration Fee

- Individual Child \$85.00
- Family \$200

Program	Days	Session	Times	Tuition Annually Affiliated	Tuition Annually Unaffiliated
Full Day	Monday through Friday		8:15 am - 3:15 pm	\$8,300	\$9,300
Full Day	Monday-Wednesday-Friday		8:15 am - 3:15 pm	\$5,229	\$5,859
Full Day	Tuesday-Thursday		8:15 am - 3:15 pm	\$3,486	\$3,906
Half Day	Monday through Friday	AM	8:15 am - 11:15 am	\$4,358	\$4,883
Half Day	Monday-Friday	PM	12:15 pm - 3:15 pm	\$4,358	\$4,883
Half Day	Monday-Wednesday-Friday	AM	8:15 am - 11:15 am	\$2,745	\$3,076
Half Day	Tuesday-Thursday	AM	8:15 am - 11:15 am	\$1,830	\$2,051
Half Day	Monday-Wednesday-Friday	PM	12:15 pm - 3:15 pm	\$2,745	\$3,076
Half Day	Tuesday-Thursday	PM	12:15 pm - 3:15 pm	\$1,830	\$2,051

There is no financial aid available for preschool.

## EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In the event of a child being injured at school, the parents or guardians will be contacted immediately. In the event of a medical emergency, the child will be transported by ambulance to the nearest hospital. The parent/guardian will be responsible for any costs associated with emergency transportation and medical care of the child. The school will attempt to reach one of the contacts provided for the student, but if none of them can be reached, school personnel will use discretion in securing medical aid in an emergency, following the District 911 calling guidelines.

It is understood that the school, Archdioceses of Denver, nor the person responsible for obtaining medical aid, will be responsible for the expense incurred.

## **LOST CHILDREN AND EMERGENCY SITUATIONS**

Should a child be separated from their group during a field trip, tornado, fire, lockdown, lockout, or school activity, the responsible adults will immediately begin an in-depth search for the student. If the student is not located within a 5-minute period, the parents and the police will be notified to assist in the process. During any excursion, away from the school building, attendance is taken every 10-15 minutes to assure that we know where every student is at all times. Student emergency information and phone numbers are taken on every trip away from the school premises. A list of all children and staff on a field trip is kept at the preschool office.

## **EMERGENCY DRILLS**

Drills are held on a regular basis to acquaint teachers and children with the procedures to follow in the event of a person of interest or intruder on the premises, or a natural disaster such as a tornado or fire, or a bomb threat. Copies of the procedures are located in all classrooms and offices in Nativity: Faith & Reason School and are available to review upon request.

## **CHILD GUIDANCE**

Nativity's philosophy, for all those involved with that school (students, parents, teachers, administrators, office staff, aides, maintenance staff, supervisors, coaches, etc.) calls for the spirit of mutual respect and responsibility, rooted in the example of Jesus Christ. This philosophy requires discipline and sacrifices made by each member of our community so that we may be examples for the young, and to ensure that a Christian educational environment is maintained. Education in love and respect is the responsibility of every member of the school. Community builds responsible choice, self-control, character, and order. The staff who work with our students use positive re-direction techniques, giving children choices, problem-solving, and our discipline policy reflects natural and logical consequences for a child's healthy growth and development. For example, discipline is not associated with food, napping, or toilet training. Partnering with our parents, each child's parent/guardian is required to read and sign the Nativity Faith & Reason Preschool Student Discipline Procedures form upon registration.

## **TRANSPORTATION AND FIELD TRIPS**

Field trips will not be taken by way of transportation. Children may take walking field trips with supervision based on licensing ratios to places within walking distance of the school. In-classroom and in-school field trips will also happen throughout the year. We will notify the parent/guardian and will have a signed permission slip for each field trip that is off school/church grounds. Children will be transported by ambulance in any and all emergency situations.

## **TELEVISION/VIDEO VIEWING**

Television and video viewing are not a regular part of the school day. However, parents are asked to sign a permission slip in the registration packet, giving permission for their student to watch an exceptional video or special event on television. Parents may opt out of their child(ren) watching a program or video for educational purposes, such as a G rated educational movie.

## **RELEASE OF CHILDREN**

Children will be released only to an authorized person designated by parent authorization as stated in the registration paperwork. The Director should be notified of any changes to be made to a child's paperwork. Children will not be released to a child, an older sibling, student, or child care provider unless they are 18 years of age and named in the child's paperwork. Any designated party will need to show proper identification (a picture I.D.) before the child will be released.

If a child is to be picked up by someone other than a designated person, they will not be released without prior communication or prior arrangement.

## **LATE PICK-UP**

The school must be notified in advance if a child's pick up will be late. A late pick up fee will be issued to parents/guardians picking up children after the session has ended. This fee is assessed at a rate of \$1.00 per minute and is strictly enforced. If a parent/guardian is consistently or excessively late picking up their child, the Preschool Director will consider termination of enrollment without reimbursement. If a parent/guardian is going to be late picking up a child they are asked to call the preschool to alert staff. If staff is unable to reach either the parents or emergency contacts within thirty minutes after school dismissal, or after the close of the full day program, the staff is required to contact the local Police Department and Broomfield County Social Services.

## **PERSONAL BELONGINGS**

Children should not bring personal items such as money, toys, candy, medicine or lip balms from home. Necessary personal school items found at the school will be stored (i.e. school work, clothing, jacket, backpack, etc.)

## **SNACKS AND MEALS**

Parents are required to provide healthy snacks (half day and full day children) and lunches (full day children only) for their child(ren). Milk may be purchased through the Federal Milk Program.

Parents are asked to respect allergies when planning snacks for all children. Half day children will bring one snack, and full day children will bring two snacks and one lunch.

## **DIAPERING AND TOILET TRAINING**

Children must be potty-trained by the first day of school. Parents will need to provide pull-ups for children in case of an exceptional accident during the day. Children must be able to change themselves with supervision of the classroom teacher.



## **VISITOR SIGN IN**

All visitors must check-in at the main office of the school and sign the visitor's log, after which they will receive a visitor's badge. All visitors must also sign the visitor log in the preschool classroom and show proper identification. Anyone touring the school must be accompanied by a school employee.

## **PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Preschool conferences with parents will be conducted in the fall and spring. We will be informing you of your child's progress in all areas of development. It is important for you to keep us informed about specific problems and special or upcoming events that may affect your child's behavior at school so we can be prepared to respond in the most effective manner. Although teachers are available to talk with parents informally, time is set aside each year for formal communication.

## **FILING A LICENSING COMPLAINT**

Nativity Preschool will be licensed by the Colorado Department of Human Services. The license indicates that the facility has met the required standards for the operation of a child care facility. The most recent inspections are available upon request. If one has a concern about the preschool services received at Nativity's site, please contact: The Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care 303-866-5958 or 1-800-799-5876 10

## **CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

Colorado State law requires that any and all incidences of suspected child abuse and/or neglect of a child be reported to: Broomfield County Department of Abuse and Neglect: **(720) 887-2271**. It is the responsibility of the Department of Human Services to determine what abuse/neglect (if any) occurred in such a case. Nativity Preschool strives to build a partnership with parents/guardians to provide the most suitable environment possible for children. We have many resources and referrals available to parents upon request. It is important, also for parents to be aware of Colorado law as it pertains to suspected child abuse and /or neglect.

## **WITHDRAWALS**

Normally a child is not to be deprived of a Catholic education or otherwise penalized for actions of parents. However, parents may so significantly reduce the school's ability to effectively serve its students that the parents may be requested to remove their child from the school for any of the following reasons: (1) Refusal to cooperate with school personnel, (2) Refusal to adhere to Archdiocesan or local policies and regulations, (3) Interference in matters of school administration or discipline, and/or (4) Public rejection of the laws, norms, and teachings of the Catholic Church. (Policy #2660)

## **PARENT WITHDRAWAL POLICY**

Please submit written notification of your withdrawal to the preschool program. Since we continue to reserve time for your child, you will be responsible for your bill until we receive this written termination of preschool services.

## **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

Notice of Student Non-Discrimination Policy: The Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Denver, under the jurisdiction of Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila, S.T.L. and at the direction of the Superintendent, state that all of their Catholic schools admit students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the schools. Furthermore, Archdiocesan schools admit handicapped students in accord with the policy on Admissions, 4.2.1. These schools do not discriminate on the basis of race, age, handicap, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of their educational policies, employment practices, scholarship and loan programs, or athletic or other school administered programs. Assurance Statement of compliance with the purposes of Title IX Education Act The Catholic schools of the Archdiocese, under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop, and at the direction of the Superintendent, attest that none of the Catholic schools discriminates on the basis of sex in its admission policies, treatment of student or its employment practices. (Policy #6020) No student shall be admitted as a student unless that student and his/her parent(s) subscribe to the school's philosophy and agree to abide by the educational policies and regulations of the school and Archdiocese. Baptismal certificate Health and immunization records Priority for admission to Nativity School is based on the following criteria, in this order: Siblings of current Nativity students, Nativity parishioners who have been registered and active in the parish' stewardship program for at least six months and verified, registered, and an active member of other Catholic parishes.

## **CLASSROOM POLICY FOR BIRTHDAYS AND HOLIDAY PARTIES**

Parents may be treats for their child's birthdays. Parents are asked to check with the Preschool Director about food allergies in the classroom. Parents are welcomed to participate in birthday parties; however, due to the size of classrooms, younger siblings are unable to attend classroom parties.

## **PLAYGROUND RULES**

Children are not allowed on the playground before or after school. No child is allowed to be on the playground without preschool staff supervision. Please do not send your child to the playground without you when you are visiting at school.

## **CLOTHING AND OUTDOOR PLAY**

Please remember that preschool is an important time for exploration of materials and equipment. Please provide an apron to leave at school. Closed toe shoes are imperative in allowing children to run and climb safely during their school day. Colorado weather changes from one moment to the next. Please follow the uniform policy. White, blue, or red tights or leggings matching the uniform are suggested for girls on cold days.

## UNIFORMS

The Nativity Preschool Uniform is the same as the Nativity: Faith & Reason school uniform. The exclusive supplier for the school's uniforms is Dennis Uniform.

Girls' uniform:

- Skort, Jumper, or Skirt (shorts should be worn under the skirt)
- Tan or blue shorts or pants
- White oxford shirt, long or short sleeved, and Macbeth plaid bow for liturgy days and special occasions
- Blue or Red crewneck sweatshirt
- Blue or red, long or short sleeved logo polo
- Blue, red, or white tights for cold days
- Closed toe shoes

Boys' uniform:

- Tan or blue shorts or pants
- White oxford shirt, long or short sleeved, and Macbeth plaid tie worn for liturgy days and special occasions.
- Blue or red crewneck sweatshirt
- Blue or red, long or short sleeved logo polo
- Closed toe shoes

## NUTRITION

Nativity encourages healthy nutritional snacks and meals for children. Morning and afternoon snacks or lunch (Full Day Only), provided by parent/guardian. Please send healthy snacks and a water bottle with your child daily.

## DAILY COMPONENTS

A typical day includes the following components:

**LARGE GROUP ACTIVITIES:** All children in the class will be grouped together for opening group prayer and activities, movement games, music, stories, finger play, songs and other educational activities, outside play and Mass.

**SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES:** The groups meet several times a day for a learning activity (Religion, Literacy, Science, Math, etc.) based on children's interests, needs, and units of study.

**PAIRED ACTIVITIES:** Children will participate in paired activities with other children in the group. This promotes sharing, taking turns and delayed gratification (learning to wait for your turn.)

**CENTERS:** Centers are set up throughout the classroom. Children choose a center and create a plan. Centers available include religion, literacy/writing, dramatic play, blocks, science/art and, math. Through play we are working on language, large and fine motor skills, intellectual/cognitive development, self-help skills, academic, and social/emotional development.

### **REST TIME (FULL DAY ONLY)**

Licensing requires a rest time for each child at the preschool who stays over five (5) hours. Full day children are expected to rest or sleep on the mat or cot provided. Full day parents are asked to provide a sheet for the mats which will be sent home on Friday to be laundered and returned to school on Monday.

### **DESCRIPTION OF STAFF**

Our staff at Nativity preschool are professionally qualified teachers and aides, managed by the Preschool Director under the guidance of the principal of Nativity: Faith & Reason. The Preschool Director meets all qualifications as required by the Colorado Department of Human Services.

### **STAFF HEALTH TRAINING REQUIREMENTS**

All teaching staff receive CPR and First Aid certification as required by the Colorado Department of Human Service, Child Care Division. In addition, they use safe/proper procedures learned during Standard Precautions and Medication Administration training when dispensing medication, and tending to children's physical needs.

### **OUR COMMITMENT**

Nativity Preschool is committed to our school, church and families. We are true believers that the parents are the primary educators of the child, and thus we seek to accompany the parents in helping the child grow socially, emotionally, and spiritually. Our new preschool will provide opportunities for parents to be partners in the child's preschool experience.

### **PARENT INVOLVEMENT**

Nativity is thankful for its faithful and willing volunteers. The life of many school activities and events depends on its volunteers. The desire of Nativity Preschool in all of the school's activities is to keep its students safe. In compliance with the Archdiocesan requirements, all volunteers must complete a volunteer application. All volunteers will need to produce their date of birth and Social Security number for the purpose of conducting a background check. In addition, all volunteers will be required to attend Safe Environment Training and sign the Code of Conduct. Safe Environment Training is offered during the school year onsite and also at other Archdiocesan locations. Their website: [www.archden.org](http://www.archden.org) has a listing of classes. Check with the Nativity school office for a schedule of classes at Nativity. (Policy #3140) All parents, administration, and faculty are members of our PTO (Parent Teacher Organization). The objective of PTO is to assist the administration and faculty in obtaining the wants and needs of the school. In addition, the PTO assists the school with fundraising activities to help meet the needs agreed upon by the administration, faculty, and parents. This organization strives to promote spirit and unity throughout the school. We encourage our parents, the primary educators of their children, to be involved in all aspects of their child's education. The Preschool Director and Nativity: Faith & Reason, will inform parents of volunteer opportunities throughout the school year.

## **PARENT DONATIONS**

A Preschool “Wish List” will be posted in the classroom, school newsletter, and church bulletin. We ask for new or slightly-used items.

## **SIGN-IN/SIGN-OUT**

Social Service licensing requires that a parent or designated adult sign children in and out on a daily basis. Each child must be brought into or out of the classroom or playground area and the adult needs to make contact with a teacher. This is for the safety of the child and to allow for communication between parents and teachers. Children accompanying you to school should not be left unattended in your vehicle or anywhere on the school grounds. When students are out of the classroom, a sign will be posted stating where they are.

## **SNOW CLOSURE**

In the event that classes are to be canceled because of weather or other emergencies, the announcement can be heard on KCNC (Channel 4), KMGH (Channel 7), or KUSA (Channel 9). This information will also be messaged to all parents through Fast Direct. Please do not call the school, the teachers, or the Parish Center to request closure information. Once school is in session, classes will not be dismissed before the regular time because of weather. However, if adverse weather conditions exist, parents may always elect to pick up a child(ren) early.

## **PARKING LOT SAFETY**

Please respect the car line policies set in place by Nativity: Faith & Reason. Do not leave unattended children in your car. Please hold your child’s hands while crossing the street. Little people darting between parked cars are very hard to see. Please drive safely and slowly.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Please be advised we will not give out any names, addresses, or phone numbers of the students enrolled in the school without previous permission from the parents. Parents will need to give written permission to have their information published in the school directory.

## **SUNSCREEN POLICY**

Increased exposure sunlight may increase my child’s risk for skin cancer later in life. UV rays are most intense between the hours of 10:00 am and 4:00 pm. Parent/Guardian understands that they expected to apply or use sun protection on their child daily before entering the classroom. They will acknowledge this action by signing the Sun Protection permission form.

If the parent/guardian is unable to supply a form of sun protection, they give permission for the Nativity: Faith & Reason Preschool staff to apply Rocky Mountain Sunscreen on their child. In addition, sunscreen will be reapplied as directed by the product label to children attending longer than 3 hours. Sunscreen will be applied to exposed skin, including but not limited to the face, tops of ears, nose, bare shoulders, arms, and legs.

## **DISCIPLINE POLICY**

The Board of Education as well as the Archdiocese of Denver recognizes that effective Student discipline is a major contributor to the creation of a positive and productive environment for all students. It is the further belief of the Board that the prime objectives of the discipline program should be to:

1. Assist students in the development of the ability to discipline themselves.
2. Assist students in the development of behavior that is socially acceptable, respectful and mindful of the dignity of others.
3. Ensure the right of others to learn. For preschool students, the following procedures will be implemented when disciplinary action is required to address student behavior. Prior to implementing these steps the staff will work carefully and thoughtfully to assist the student in gaining control of his/her behavior. We will consult with the social worker and other professional to determine a behavior plan to help the child to be successful in school.
  - First incident will necessitate a phone call home informing the parent of the situation.
  - Second incident will require the child to be picked up from school by the parent or guardian. The child will be removed from the classroom situation until the parent arrives.
  - Third incident will result in a one-day suspension from school, in addition to the child being sent home. The student will not be readmitted until a parent conference has been conducted.
  - Fourth incident will result in a two-to-five-day suspension from school. A student will not be readmitted until a parent conference has been conducted.
  - Any further incidents will result in immediate revocation of enrollment for a period of one year at any Nativity: Faith & Reason. Re-admission to the program in subsequent years will be on the condition that there are no further problems.
  - If readmission is granted and further problems occur, immediate and permanent revocation of enrollment will occur.

## **POLICY CHANGES**

Parents/guardians will be notified in writing of significant changes in services, policies, or procedures so that you may decide whether Nativity Preschool continues to meet the needs of your child(ren).

## ADJUSTING TO THE FIRST DAYS OF SCHOOL

One of the things that can happen when you first leave your child is that he/she will cry and protest when you leave. It is part of the normal development process of establishing an independent and autonomous existence, separate and apart from parents. The intensity of a child's distress seems to depend mainly on the child's personality and temperament. It also depends on the way teachers handle the anxiety and the way in which parents leave. This is not something you should feel guilty or embarrassed about. Normal, healthy children show this kind of behavior at initial separation. As they become familiar with the teachers in the classroom, their protest will taper off. It is often helpful when children sense their parent's trust in the staff and the school as a safe and interesting place to be. An overly long goodbye when a child is protesting often makes it more difficult for the child, parent and teacher. Your child may cry again when you pick him/her up at the end of the day. Some things you can do to help the child adjust are: help him/her become involved in activities, explain where you are going and when you will return, then calmly and positively say goodbye. Do not sneak out or disappear! Be sure to leave your child with positive statements such as "Have fun!" or "I want to hear all about your day when I pick you up!" Avoid negative statements such as "Be good today" or "Behave yourself and listen to the teacher"

### The Most Important Thing I Will Learn at Preschool

- ❖ I learn God Loves Me
- ❖ I learn to be joyful, caring and kind
- ❖ I learn to be away from you in a safe and nurturing environment
- ❖ I learn to work with teachers
- ❖ I learn to work with groups of children
- ❖ I learn to work independently
- ❖ I learn to share and cooperate
- ❖ I learn school has simple rules and routines
- ❖ I learn to complete a task or an activity
- ❖ I learn to ask questions and seek answers
- ❖ I learn to become independent yet unafraid to ask for help by using my words
- ❖ I learn to select and make choices
- ❖ I learn to develop language and communication skills
- ❖ I learn good nutrition and health practices
- ❖ I Need to Learn All of These Skills to Grow into a Happy Healthy Person!!!!